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Creede, CO Map

124 N Main St

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**Mineral County Govmt** (719) 658-2304

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# History of CRT

Creede is located near the headwaters of the Rio Grande River, high (8,854 feet) in the San Juan Range of the Rocky Mountains. The history of the town dates back well over 100 years to early prospectors seeking their fortunes. Today, Creede still has "prospectors", but instead of looking for precious minerals, these "prospectors" are in search of other precious items like hiking, rafting and fishing in the area's gold medal waters. The cultural events offered by CRT combined with the unspoiled beauty of the Creede area make this the real "mother lode" for any prospector. CRT was established by the Creede Jaycees out of a need for the community to secure an attraction for summer visitors with the hope of stimulating business activity.

Creede was not a busy community in 1966. The Jaycees met with pastor Jim Livingston and brainstormed about what to do for the town. Pastor Livingston always loved theatre and in this love a vision for Creede was born. The Jaycees drafted a letter and mailed it to various Universities, hoping that some excited students would answer the call to help build a summer theatre. One of these letters was posted on a bulletin board at the University of Kansas by Nancy Vunovich, a frequent summer visitor to Creede. Steve Grossman saw the letter, removed it and the gears were set in motion for a meeting to take place between representatives of both parties. This would be the only answer that the Jaycees would get from their letter.

The name given to this new joint venture was "Operation Summer Theatre". The Jaycees and twelve students from KU, under the direction of Steve Grossman, began this venture with \$32 in the bank and what seemed to be unlimited energy. Program ads were sold, the hardware established a very long line of credit and the students rehearsed, began construction, and sold tickets for the opening night of Mr. Roberts (a favorite play of Mr. Livingston's). Mr. Roberts came to be the most loved and most memorable CRT production. To this day, patrons speak of it with awe and admiration.

This founding company established three very important keystones to the success of the theatre; a repertory schedule, a meaningful variety of plays and the creation of an ensemble. This schedule was selected for two reasons; it is an excellent business practice in a tourist area to be able to offer a variety of plays during the week. This was in keeping with the Jaycees intent to promote business in the downtown area. And the rotating repertory schedule is the most exciting and challenging manner in which to present plays. It allows the theatre artist a superior chance to hone their craft.

The plays selected were not typical summer fare. The plays were selected for their diversity, with something for everyone, but they represented the best of contemporary and classic literature. These artists chose to take a risk by selecting a body of work that had a variety of style and depth. This established an important pattern of educating the audience as well as entertaining them. Due to this foresight, Creede audiences have come to expect a well balanced selection of plays each season.

The creation of the ensemble arose out of necessity. Because only twelve individuals were able to produce the plays, they had to be generalists. It was common to be expected to sew a costume between entrances, for example. This non-specialization served to unite the small company and it did not allow anyone to foster a superior attitude toward their work. One of the unique aspects about CRT is the development of the company as an ensemble. This still holds true to this day.

The community and the theatre have unique relationship. An arts institution is not often accepted in a mining community. The two have co-existed in remarkable harmony. The first official day of summer is marked by the arrival of the CRT company. Many past company members have gone on to purchase land or homes in Creede and they maintain long distance friendships with Creede residents. Some CRT past company members have even registered to vote in Mineral County out of love and concern for Creede.

Since the shutdown of the Homestake Mining operation in Creede in 1984, the theatre has risen to an unexpected status of being the largest employer in the county during the summer. It has been documented to have an annual economic impact of nearly \$2 million in the region. Through this pattern of growth, CRT is achieving the original goal of boosting business in the Creede area (and now the San Luis Valley). For nearly 40 years, summer visitors have planned their summer vacations around CRT plays. They most often like to come in August, "when they can see all the plays."

### CRT and The Arts Council

The Creede Arts Council is a community organization that seeks to foster the artist in everyone and celebrate the arts in Creede through exhibitions, performances, educational programs, and commissioning new works.

Art on the Page Each year the Willow Creek Journal and the "Creede Reads" community reading series provide a literary pathway into the heart and soul of Creede and the southwest.

Art on the Stage CAC sponsors a wide variety of performing artists and groups throughout the year, including events presented in conjunction with the Creede Repertory Theatre. A full calendar includes music, dance, storytelling, and more.

Art in the Schools Instructional programs in visual and literary arts, drama, dance, and music are an ongoing project the CAC shares with the Creede Consolidated School District. Six-week, in-school classes culminate in an exhibition or performance of the students' work with various artists-in-residence.

Art Out of Doors The majesty of Creede's scenery provides a backdrop for the Creede Arts Council's outdoor events and permanent artwork. In 1994, a lot in downtown Creede was donated to the City of Creede for a park, which was then leased to CAC for an art park. The Seaborne Collins Memorial Art Park will be the home of at teast one mural as well as sculptures when the council commissions new works or brings in traveling exhibits. The CAC Table Project was begun in 1994, a collaboration between artist Sarah Bird and the people of Creede. Ten tables with tops celebrating Creede's history and nature are located on a site in Willow Creek Canyon, North of Creede. CAC's first major commission, in 1992 was Stephen Quiller's mural of the seasons.

For further information on the Creede Arts Council please write to:

Creede Arts Council P.O. Box 392 Creede, CO 81130

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# **Creede Consolidated Schools**

<u>Creede Jr/Sr High School</u> and <u>Lamb Elementary</u> are located in Creede, Colorado



Schools

Creede Jr/Sr High School

Lamb Elementary

Where is Creede? Click here to see a map locating Creede.

If you have comments or suggestions, email us at chs@creedek12.org



# Creede Jr/Sr High School



#### INDEX





Creede Jr/Sr High School is located in the rural community c Creede that is nestled in the mountains of south-central Colo

Located at an altitude of nearly 9,000 feet in the south-central mountains of Colorado, Creed High School serves a community of approximately 500 people.

The city of Creede is the county seat of Mineral County. In fact, it is the only town in Mineral Silver mining was the industry that created Creede and, consequently, our school mascot be *Miners*.

Creede Jr/Sr High School is part of the Creede Consolidated School District. Several one-ro school houses were scattered in the surrounding mountains at the turn of the century. Over they banded together to form one consolidated district.

One building provides the education for students from the seventh through the twelfth grades junior high consists of grades seven and eight. The high school, grades nine through twelve

Approximately 75 students attend Creede Jr/Sr High School.



Click here to see a map locating Creede.

# **Contact Information**

Telephone

719.658.2220

**FAX** 

719.658.2942

Postal address

308 La Garita Street / Creede, CO 81130

Electronic mail

General Information: chs@creedek12.org

Web Site

http://creedek12.org/chs

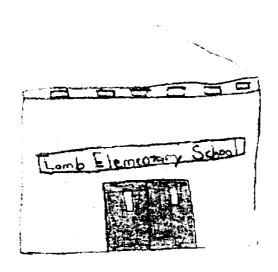
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# Lamb Elementary School





Class of 2006



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